However, during the period April-June 2003, there was only one major train accident attended with 10 or more fatalities. This was the derailment of 7201 Up Golconda Express on 02.07.2003 at Warangal station on Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway, in which 21 persons lost their lives and 24 persons suffered injuries. Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle is conducting the Statutory Inquiry and in his provisional findings in the Preliminary Inquiry Report, he has attributed the accident to delayed application of brakes.

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee on Railways is already seized of the matter regarding train accidents and their examination is in process. The Committee has not submitted its report so far.

Replacement of railway engines

†2180. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway engines in the country;

(b) the number of such engines which are being run even after completion of their designated age;

(c) whether Government propose to replace these engines at the earliest keeping in view the possibility of accident in running such engines; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) On Indian Railways, 33 Steam, 4835 number of Diesel and 2958 Electric locomotives are working.

(b) On Indian Railways, 33 Steam, 301 Diesel and 18 MG Electric locomotives are working beyond their codal life.

(c) and (d) Main line broad gauge overaged locos are likely to be replaced by the end of 10th five-year Plan. Steam locos are not being replaced for heritage reasons and MG locos are not being replaced in view of on going broad gauge conversion. However, it is ensured that all locomotives irrespective of age are kept in good mechanical fettle to ensure safety of train operations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.